AN ESSAY ON THE CURE of the GONORHOEA, OR FRESH CONTRACTED VENEREAL INFECTION, WITHOUT THE USE OF INTERNAL MEDICINES.

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PREFACE.

I Have been induced to publiſh the following Method of treating the virulent Gonorrhœa, from the ill Conſequences ariſing from the common Methods of Cure; I am very ſenſible of the great Improvements which have been made by many ingenious Surgeons, in reducing this Diſeaſe to a much milder Treatment than was formerly practiſed; but ſtill there is room for Improvement in this, as well as other Branches of Sur-

Surgery. If what is advanced in the following Sheets (which is founded on Facts, and is the Result of practical Obſervation) meets with the Approbation of Men of Candour, and proves of Service to Mankind, it will give me infinite Satisfaction.

High Holborn,
No. 192.

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An ESSAY, &c.

IN treating of this Diſeaſe, I ſhall not attempt to explain how the infection is communicated, but ſhall leave that and other ſpeculative enquiries to thoſe Authors who have treated largely on the ſubject. I ſhall confine myſelf to the beſt practical method of relieving the patient when infected, and ſhall immediately begin with the ſymptoms of a recent or freſh contracted Gonorrhœa.

The firſt ſymptom obſervable in a freſh Gonorrhœa or Clap, is commonly an agreeable ſenſation in the whole, or greateſt part of the urinary paſſage.

At this time none, or ſcarce any diſcharge is diſcernible on the linen; yet this ſymptom is moſt probably occaſioned by a diſcharge, though not ſufficient in quantity to erode or deſtroy the mucus, which defends the paſſage from the ſaline particles of urine in its paſſing. As the quantity and virulence of the diſcharge increaſe, the effects of the infection of courſe begin to be more attended to. Spots are obſervable on the linen, the edges of which appear of a darker colour than in the center; and this dark margin is a principal mark to diſtinguiſh the venereal from diſcharges ariſing from other cauſes.

The mucus now abraded, or perhaps not furniſhed from the inflammation of its ſecretory ducts, the urethra is expoſed, and probably excoriated. Hence, at this time, is felt a violent pain

pain and ſmarting in the evacuation of urine. Another ſymptom is the Chordee, or painful erection, which chiefly afflicts the patient at night, and the external edge of the urinary paſſage appears inflamed.

Theſe are the moſt common ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, but differ remarkably with reſpect of violence in different conſtitutions. For in patients of thin habits, I have generally obſerved them, as well as the cure, more troubleſome and difficult than in fat and plethoric people. It muſt be remembered then, that it is in the foregoing ſtate of the diſeaſe, and no other, that I recommend the following method of treatment.

I ſhall not attempt to refine, as ſome have done, in dividing this diſeaſe into a number of ſtages, which I believe only exiſt in the imagination, but ſhall

conſider it in thoſe views which a change of ſymptoms fairly points out, which unprejudiced obſervation will find extremely ſimple, and to which my method of cure is adapted.

The ſeat of the diſeaſe, which has been the ſubject of diſpute amongſt men of great reputation for their phyſiological enquiries, is with me a matter of no great importance, as every part, which has been or can be rationally aſſigned its ſeat, is equally ſubject to my method of treatment. However, with great reſpect to theſe, I ſhall take the liberty of delivering my opinion, as it occurs from practical obſervation; tho', while it appears a mere matter of opinion, I ſhould be the laſt perſon who would advance any thing poſitive on the ſubject.

The moſt prevailing opinions I believe are, that the ſeat of the diſeaſe is

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in the Veſiculæ Seminales, proſtrate or Cowper's Glands; this may, no doubt, ſometimes be the caſe, but not always. It is the obvious property of the venereal virus to attack the glands; this is evident from the ſudden inflammation of the teſtes and inguinal glands, from a ſtoppage of the running by any injudicious treatment, &c. It is highly reaſonable therefore to ſuppoſe, that all the lacunæ are ſubject to receive the infection, ſo that many different parts of the urethra may be the original places of the virulent diſcharge. If this is the caſe, the nearer the firſt ſeat of the running is to the neck of the bladder, the more the urethra will be affected, the more ſevere the ſymptoms, and the greater will be the quantity of the diſcharge, and, *vice verſa*, for whatever part of the urethra it happens in, all between that and the neck of the bladder eſcape unhurt.

It is very certain, that the inflammation and heat of urine are frequently felt much nearer the external extremity of the urethra, than where authors contend for; and the ſituation of inflammation and pain may be always reaſonably ſuppoſed the place of the diſcharge. I have had ſome caſes, where the ſeat of the diſeaſe has been ſo near, as to be cured by the introduction of a feather dipped in the injection I ſhall hereafter mention: and this, indeed, was what firſt led me to differ in opinion, from others who confine themſelves to particular parts. As this, however, is a matter of no great conſequence in the cure, I ſhall advance no more in favour of this ſubject, but leave it to be aſcertained by men of ſuperior abilities, and more leiſure than I have for ſuch enquiries.

The ſymptoms ariſing from a freſh infection, as the titilation, heat of urine, chor-

chordee, and acrimonious diſcharge from the urethra, is the firſt ſtage of the diſeaſe, which may be called the malignant: when the diſcharge is thicker, the dark margin diſappears, and the heat of urine and chordee leave the patient, and an agreeable ſenſation is felt after urine, like what I have mentioned as the firſt ſymptom of infection; this I ſhall call the ſecond ſtage of the diſeaſe, which is the mild healing ſtate.

It will be neceſſary, previous to introducing a new practice, to give ſome account of the preſent methods, uſed by practitioners of Surgery in general.

It is common for ſome of the older practitioners, in the country in particular, to order draſtic purges and mercurials.

Some ſurgeons have depended entirely on ſimple emollients, others order electuaries of nitre and cremor tartar, joined

joined with gentle purgatives, and ſometimes with camphor: another method is, to cure by injections of various compoſitions.

To give ſtrong purges and mercurials in a ſtate of the diſeaſe, which is merely local, and admits of proper remedies to be applied immediately to the part affected, appears very abſurd; nor can I ſee why they are retained in practice, unleſs in blind obedience to cuſtom. Inſtead of relieving the patient, both reaſon and experience teach, that they do manifeſt hurt; for, by frequently diminiſhing the diſcharge, they diſturb nature in her curative intention, and in all probability, cauſe an abſorption of ſome of the infectious matter into the conſtitution, and produce a neceſſity, indeed, for a tedious courſe of internal remedies to perfect a cure; which otherwiſe would

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lay the foundation for a confirmed Pox. Another objection, which will be acknowledged by all judicious ſurgeons is, that the continuance of ſtrong purges will produce ſuch a great relaxation, as to occaſion thoſe obſtinate, and often incurable gleets, which numbers complain of, who have been treated in this manner. Beſides theſe diſagreeable circumſtances, they often occaſion indigeſtion, and other complaints in the ſtomach, the hæmorrhoids or piles, which frequently terminate in a fiſtula in ano.

CASE I.

In which rough Treatment was uſed.

I Was ſent for to a patient, who had a great hæmorrhage of the penis, and had loſt an immenſe quantity of blood. On examining, I found the

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greateſt part of the glans penis in a ſtate of mortification; he had nearly the appearance of a dead corpſe, with purple ſpots on every part of his body. Upon enquiring, I found he had been very roughly treated by the ſurgeon who had the firſt management of his caſe: he had been drenched with ſtrong purges and mercurial vomits, which had broke down the texture of his blood, and cauſed the preſent dreadful appearances. I immediately made uſe of ſtyptic applications to the penis, by which means, and ſlight preſſure, I ſtopped the hæmorrhage. I then deſidered the apothecary (Mr. Bouquet in Queen Street, who had been called juſt before I ſaw the caſe) to make a ſtrong decoction of bark, to which was joined elix. vitriol. acid. and an addition of the pulvis cort. peruv. This I ordered to be given in ſmall quantities very

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ry often, and at intervals ordered ſome of the confect. damocrat. to prevent its purging. This method I continued three days, when I perceived the ſpots in ſeveral parts to diſappear, and a large part of the penis appeared a little looſe; but I uſed no violence to remove the mortified part, as it would have endangered a freſh hæmorrhage. By continuing the method, he became conſiderably better on the ſeventh day; but the putrid parts ſmelt exceedingly offenſive. On the eighth day, in the evening, I was called, and found him extremely faint, from loſs of blood by a freſh hæmorrhage, which had not been perceived till I came. I made uſe of ſtyptic applications as before, and ſucceeded in ſtopping it a ſecond time. But ſome days after the greateſt part of the yard dropped off. I continued repeating the bark, &c. as before; and in

about a month he walked to my houſe. When he had recovered ſufficiently, I put him under a mild mercurial courſe, and by this means affected a cure. However, ſince that time I have heard, that the man was afflicted ſome time after with a diſeaſe of the lungs, of which he languiſhed a conſiderable time, and died; and it is no improbable concluſion to imagine, that the foundation of this laſt diſeaſe was owing to rough treatment.

CASE II.

AN officer in the navy, contracted a clap in England, and was ordered out to the Eaſt Indies in the fleet laſt war. The ſurgeon, who had the firſt care of him, gave him draſtic purges and mercurials; the conſequence of which was a very bad gleet. After ſuf-

ſuffering it between five or ſix years, without gaining relief, he came home to England, and applied to different ſurgeons of character for his cure; the cold bath, bougies, and internal medicines for this purpoſe were uſed, but without any ſucceſs whatever, for the diſcharge was not in the leaſt abated. This unhappy circumſtance had ſuch an effect on his mind, that it brought on a nervous diſeaſe, and he was reduced to almoſt the appearance of a ſkeleton when I laſt ſaw him, which is now near eight years; at which time, deſpairing of a cure, he went over to Ireland. I was witneſs to a number more ſuch caſes, which came under my own care during laſt war, which were in general incurable.

Emollients in this diſeaſe I have often found ſucceſsful. By decoctions of marſhmallows alone, in a great number of inſtances, I have ſucceeded in the cure. But although I have found it ſo ſucceſsful, eſpecially when joined with nitre, yet there is a very great objection to this method, as I have in a number of repeated inſtances obſerved.

To cure by the emollient method, the patient muſt drink very plentifully, two or three quarts in the day at leaſt, and obſerve a very regular regimen. The conſequence of which will be, in general, a relaxation of the ſphincter of the bladder, and an incontinence of urine; or, if the patient eſcapes this, I have obſerved, that after the diſcharge of urine, ſome have ſuffered great pain at, or near the neck of the bladder, probably from a leſs degree of relaxation

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for ſome months. The ſame complaint has ſometimes happened, when great quantities of diluting liquors have been drank, in which nitre has been diſſolved.

CASE.

Where an incontinence of Urine followed the Uſe of Emollients.

A Gentleman applied to me for the cure of a freſh contracted Gonorrhœa, who had been treated by the emollient method in ſome former infection. He being young, and ſeemingly of a good conſtitution, I propoſed putting him under this method of cure, and ordered him to drink three or four quarts of the decoction of marſhmallows every day; by which means the violent ſymptoms were ſoon relieved (which is certainly the common effects

of

of this method) and he living very regular, in about eight days the inflammatory ſymptoms entirely left him; and by continuing the decoction, his cure was compleated in about three weeks. But the conſequence of this method was an incontinence of urine; and notwithſtanding all the common methods were uſed in ſuch caſes, as alum, vitriolic acids, &c. yet it was near three months before this complaint was cured.

Nitre joined with gentle cathartics, in the form of an electuary, I have known ſucceed in curing great numbers; but it is apt to occaſion very diſagreeable cold ſenſations at the ſtomach, with great pain; which, however, I think may be eaſily remedied, by always giving the nitre in a diſſolved

ved ſtate. I am ſuſpicious, that theſe effects of nitre in pills, boluſſes, or electuaries, muſt have been the cauſe of that timorouſneſs, which I have obſerved in able practitioners, when they order this remedy. The generality of labouring people, and thoſe who live very irregular, I have cured, by giving from half a drachm to a drachm of the nitre, rubbed with five grains of pulvis jalap. three times a day in warm water, increaſing the quantity of the water in proportion to the nitre; but this method is rather tedious, the patient ſuffering the diſagreeable complaint of ſcalding, or heat of urine, for two or three weeks or more; and if accompanied with a violent chordee ſometimes longer. The method I propoſe, is calculated to immediately alleviate theſe ſymptoms; and if attended to in time, infallibly prevents any ſuch com-

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plaints; the cure goes on agreeable to the patient, and Nature is aſſiſted in the manner ſhe points out for the cure.

The method of curing by injection, is much ſuperior to any other in this ſtate of the diſeaſe, becauſe its effects are immediately applied to the affected part; but I believe, that the injections, which are made uſe of in common, are not to be depended upon, at leaſt thoſe made publick; for ſome ſurgeons have been ſo mean, as to pretend to ſecrets of this ſort. And, I believe, that the generality of ſurgeons give internal medicines, when they attempt the cure by this means.

In the compoſition of an injection, no aſtringent or drying drug ſhould be made uſe of, as ſuch are very dangerous: nor can I approve of powders in an injection; for tho' it is not very probable, yet it is not impoſſible,

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that ſome of the powder may get into the bladder, and if retained there, may form the nucleus of a ſtone. I have ſeen caſes, where aſtringent injections have been uſed, in which the patients have been attacked with confirmed poxes a long time after the ſuppoſed cure. Others have been lucky enough to have complaints of an alarming nature, immediately on the checking or ſtopping the diſcharge, as buboes, ſwelled teſticles, &c. And the ſame has happened where rough treatment has been uſed; which, in the courſe of an extenſive practice, I have frequently obſerved. Nature of herſelf procures this diſcharge to carry off the diſeaſe; and if ſhe is not interrupted, but aſſiſted by gentle means, the cure will be ſoon accompliſhed.

CASE.

Where an improper Injection laid the foundation of a confirmed Pox.

MR. W. a married man, applied to me for advice in a ſore throat. Upon examination, I found the throat ulcerated, and he being rather feveriſh, I concluded it to be of the putrid malignant kind, which was the opinion of his phyſician, who ordered him the bark and elix. vitriol. acid. which he took for ſome days without the leaſt ſucceſs. He being diſſatisfied, I was ſent for again; and upon a ſecond examination, I began to ſuſpect the caſe to be venereal; and told him my opinion: however, he denied having had any venereal infection for two years: on his applying for advice to two or three different phyſicians

cians and ſurgeons, and they all concluded it to be venereal. He had been treated, by the ſurgeon who firſt had him under care, by an injection, ſome of which he had by him of ol. amygdal. and afterward by an aſtringent of the vitriol. alb. diſſolved in ſome aq. roſar. which ſoon cured him, as he imagined: but inſtead of that, was the cauſe of a confirmed pox. I began the cure by bleeding, gave him a gentle purge, and fumigated the ulcers in the throat with cinnabar factit. and he being of a robuſt habit, I ordered him inwardly a decoction of ſarſap. and a proper portion of the corroſ. ſublim. diſſolved: by a continuance of which, and he obſerving a regular diet, &c. his cure was accompliſhed in about nine weeks, and he has remained in good health ever ſince.

The method of cure which I make uſe of, is by injection alone. This is compoſed of a mucilage of gum arab. argent viv. & ol. lin. p. exp. This is to be thrown up the urethra, three or four times a day, and retained in it eight or ten minutes at each time, gently preſſing the whole paſſage. This injection lubricates and defends the urethra from the ſaline particles of urine, and conveys, at the ſame time, the remedy, which is the known ſpecific in the diſeaſe, in one of its ſimpleſt forms. So that it is calculated not only to eaſe the ſevereſt ſymptoms, as being an artificial mucus to ſupply that produced by Nature, of which ſhe is deprived by the malignancy of the diſeaſe, but likewiſe attacks the diſeaſe itſelf.

The miſchiefs occaſioned by injudicious injections, have, I am ſenſible,

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alarmed the apprehenſions of mankind in general, and even of ſome ſenſible practitioners, and may, no doubt, create an objection to the uſe of them. But let them be aſſured, that theſe bad effects, as ſwelled teſticles, buboes, &c. are abſolutely always either cauſed by aſtringents checking the diſcharge, or by ſome ſaline acrimonious particles increaſing the inflammation. For repeated experience has convinced me, that even calomel and præcipit. alb. which are often uſed in this way, are corroſive to the tender membrane of the urethra in this inflamed ſtate, and has produced alarming effects. What are the conſequences of a ſolution of the corroſive ſublimate injected, thoſe who uſe it beſt can tell.

CASE

CASE.

Where a violent Inflammation was caused by an Injection of Oil and Calomel.

MR. B. applied for the cure of a Gonorrhœa; and I having heard great encomiums of calomel and oil, by a gentleman who had made use of this method in a case or two with success; and tho' I must acknowledge, I had no great opinion of calomel and præcip. alb. in an injection, as such preparations, however dulcified, still retain something of a saline quality; but having succeeded in a few cases myself, I was induced to make further trials. I began the cure by this means, and the consequence was a violent inflammation in the whole body of the penis, and all the inflammatory symptoms

toms were increaſed. I left off any further uſe of the injection, and immediately purſued the cooling method, but it did not ſucceed; for immediately an inflammation of the teſticle came on, which was very violent; and the running was entirely ſtopt; upon which I uſed the remedies in ſuch caſes, as plentiful bleeding, cooling medicines, and the mercurial ointment, to the part, &c. By that means, in a tedious manner, I cured the patient. But an induration of the teſticles remained a long time afterwards.

I have never known the injection, which I have recommended, in an extenſive practice, once to ſtop the diſcharge, nor does it increaſe the irritation, as it contains nothing ſtimulating. For argentum vivum, blended with mucilaginous ſubſtances, never has any

ſuch effect. Inſtead of the patient being tormented for a great number of days, and often weeks, with the ſcalding of urine, and the chordee (which is known to be the caſe in the common methods of cure) the ſymptoms are immediately relieved. Inſtead of a thin corroſive diſcharge for a length of time, a milder matter, more uniform in its colour and conſiſtence, ſoon iſſues from the paſſage, and all the diſagreeable ſymptoms are removed, except the diſcharge, which I generally leave to Nature.

The criterion to omit the injection, is at the commencement of the ſecond ſtage, when rather an agreeable ſenſation, or itching, is felt in the paſſage after voiding urine: for although the running may continue a week or two longer after this, it is a matter of no conſequence, as it gradually decreaſes every

every day; and thus a mild, eaſy cure is effected, without any danger to the conſtitution. The continuance of the injection at this time cannot be of further ſervice, and may be detrimental; for the matter which iſſues at this time, may reaſonably be looked on as mild and uſeful, as is the caſe in healing ſores, which the injection would counteract.

CASE.

A Married gentleman, of rather a thin habit, applied to me for the cure of a freſh contracted Gonorrhœa. His complaints were a very great heat in diſcharge of urine and chordee, which was remarkably troubleſome in the night. He had a copious running, which was very acrimonious; and the dark margin, I have before mentioned, was to be ſeen on

his linen. I began his cure by the injection, which was uſed four times a day, and it produced good effects in alleviating the ſymptoms; the ſcalding gradually became leſs, and the chordee was not felt after the ſixth or ſeventh day of injecting. However, I continued the injection, and about the twelfth day, the itching, which I have mentioned in the ſecond ſtage of the diſeaſe, came on, and the matter ſhewed evident ſigns of its mildneſs. At this time I omitted the injection, and in about nine days after his cure was compleated. In about four months after he received a freſh infection, but by applying on the firſt ſymptom, I cured him this time by the ſame means in a few days, and no ill conſequence has happened ſince.

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I believe it will be allowed, that in the common methods, three out of ten, at leaſt, are attacked with ſome one or more of the complaints already mentioned, as buboes, ſwelled teſticles, &c. but in all the caſes which I have cured, not the leaſt ill conſequence has happened, except one, which was an induration of the perinæum, and which eaſily gave way to an alterative of the ſulph. præcip. antimon. & calomel; of each of theſe were taken two grains in a pill, night and morning.

I muſt obſerve, that in the firſt ſtage of the diſeaſe, I order the patients carefully to avoid colds, and exceſſes of all ſorts; ſuch as drinking, riding, and other hard exerciſes, &c. for theſe very often ſuddenly bring on ſimilar effects to injudicious practice. Though patients, treated in my method, will be much leſs liable to the injuries ariſing from

from ſuch liberties, than where internal medicines are uſed. However, the riſk of ſuch accidents ſhould by all means be ſhunned, if poſſible.

This then is the practice I have long uſed, and which has been attended with a quick and eaſy ſucceſs. However, that ſucceſs alone would never have prevailed on me to publiſh it as an improvement, unleſs my own practice had proved the tedioufneſs, an d il conſequences, I have already mentioned of the common methods.

FINIS.